

Members

Rep. Gregory Porter, Chairperson
Rep. Terry Goodin
Rep. Paul Robertson
Rep. Robert Behning
Rep. Timothy Harris
Rep. Jeffrey Thompson
Sen. Teresa Lubbers, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Phil Boots
Sen. James Buck
Sen. James Arnold
Sen. Jean Breaux
Sen. Connie Sipes



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION MATTERS

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 13, 2008
Meeting Time: 11:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Gregory Porter, Chairperson; Rep. Paul Robertson; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Timothy Harris; Sen. Teresa Lubbers, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Phil Boots; Sen. James Buck; Sen. James Arnold; Sen. Jean Breaux; .

Members Absent: Rep. Terry Goodin; Rep. Jeffrey Thompson; Sen. Connie Sipes.

Representative Gregory Porter, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. Members of the Interim Study Committee on Education Matters (Committee) introduced themselves. The Committee duties were read by the staff attorney, Francine Rowley-Lacy.

Representative Eric Turner presented information concerning the need for high school athlete steroid testing and the reasons for introducing legislation on the subject in the 2008 session of the Indiana General Assembly. He testified that the primary reasons for steroid

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

use among high school athletes according to a University of Michigan study are to obtain success in the chosen sport, parental encouragement, college scholarships, and coach encouragement. Rep. Turner read a letter from attorney Bill Bock, U.S. Anti-doping Agency, that focused on the need for steroid testing for high school athletes (See Exhibit A). Rep. Turner also discussed the status of states that currently have a steroid testing program for high school athletes, which include Texas, Florida, Illinois, and New Jersey. He stated that Delaware has a task force concerning the issue. (See Exhibits B, C, D)

Committee members voiced concerns regarding the need for legislation and discussed the following issues:

- (1) whether there is a large steroid use problem in high school,
- (2) if principals and superintendents had contacted Rep. Turner about the problem,
- (3) the cost of testing,
- (4) ways to mask steroids,
- (5) whether there is currently a prohibition against schools testing for steroids,
- (6) who would be responsible for the cost of testing,
- (7) who would administer the test,
- (8) the possibility of deterrent programs, and
- (9) the cost of training for the programs.

Kitty Newsham, Ph.D., LAT, Indiana Athletic Trainers Association, presented information concerning the distinction between performance enhancement drugs and anabolic steroids. She stated that her research indicates that use of steroids has decreased over the past 20 years. She also stated that drug testing (including steroid testing) is purported to be a deterrent to drug usage specifically because students can use testing as a reason to refuse to use drugs. She identified the following education programs as other effective methods of reducing abuse of anabolic steroids and other drugs: (1) PASS Program, (2) ATLAS, and (3) ATHENA. (See Exhibit E)

Blake Ress, Commissioner, Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) advised the Committee that the IHSAA is not opposed to testing for steroids. However, he stated that the need to test should be weighed against the expense of testing to determine the value of any legislation to be enacted. He testified that New Jersey, Florida, and Texas have steroid testing programs funded by their respective legislature. These states reported that out of 12,817 students tested in the past couple of years, there were 4 positive test results. The cost of testing in these states was between \$160 to \$200 per test per athlete. He stated that the National Institute On Drug Abuse reported that 1.8% of seniors in high school use steroids. He also stated that all the current testing is analyzed by the World Anti-Doping Organization. He stated that each school corporation would likely have to pay for the testing unless the legislature enacted a funding source. He advised that Committee that the IHSAA currently provides educational material to students and inquired as to who would defend the appeals if the IHSAA administers the testing program in Indiana?

Rep. Turner stated that the goal of his legislation introduced in the 2008 legislative session was to educate student athletes on steroid abuse and to deter the use of them. He argued that funding for testing should be put into the state budget and that the IHSAA should seek sponsors to help pay the cost of testing. Chairman Porter stated that the issue of high school athlete steroid testing will continue to be debated during the upcoming legislative session.

Senator Teresa Lubbers testified in support of renaming the Indiana Technology Fund

(Tech Fund) as the Senator David C. Ford School and Library Technology Fund. She stated that Senator Ford was the person behind most technology initiatives in the state of Indiana.

Mike Huffman, Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) read a statement from Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction, IDOE, stating her support for the renaming of the Tech Fund. Mr. Huffman stated that the Tech Fund was created as an incentive for schools & libraries to connect to the Internet and it currently serves as an incentive to continue to stay connected to the Internet. He presented the following information concerning the Tech Fund and its use: (1) the Tech Fund funds a consortium of schools and libraries; (2) 306 teachers were trained in technology this summer from the Tech Fund; (3) 9 school systems are currently set to join the consortium; (4) \$7 million dollars are currently dedicated to the Tech Fund - however, that amount may need to be increased in the coming years in order to add more schools to the consortium, keep up with Internet demand by schools, and keep up with the 25% increase in Internet use by schools and libraries. (See Exhibit F)

Jim Corridan, Associate Director, Indiana State Library, presented information supporting the renaming of the Tech Fund and testified that libraries are struggling with Internet capacity issues due to the increase in Internet use. He stated that there are currently 214 libraries receiving money through the Tech Fund and that all recipients must meet the public library standards in order to receive money through the fund. (See Exhibits G and H)

Merle Greuser, Director of Customer Services, ENA, introduced herself to the Committee and advised the Committee that she represents the company that is contracted to provide the state with managed network and communication services.

After Committee discussion on the issue of renaming the Tech Fund, Senator Lubbers made a motion to prepare proposed legislation to rename the Indiana Technology Fund as the David C. Ford School and Library Technology Fund. The motion was seconded by Representative Tim Harris followed by a unanimous voice vote.

Chairman Porter set the next Committee meeting for September 10, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.